

Appl. No.: 10/658,445
TC/A.U.: 3711 Docket No.: B03-56
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 and 28-32 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Claims 1, 14, 20, 24, 25 and 26 have been amended. Claim 1 is now claim 27 in independent form. Claims 14 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 20, 25 and 26 have been amended to overcome the §112 rejection. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 14, 15, 24 and 26-29 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 27, 14 and 24 have been re-written in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First/Second Paragraph

Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 20, 25 and 26 recited the specific gravity in terms of g/cm³ instead of being unitless. Correction has been made.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is therefore believed to have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Rejection Over U.S. Patent No. 6,705,956

Claims 1-13, 16-23, 25, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,705,956, either alone or in combination with other references. As the Examiner pointed out, the '956 patent discloses a ball including a core formed of co-crosslinking agent present in the amount of 10-35 parts by weight. Col. 3, lines 59-60. The patent also discloses an intermediate layer having a thickness of 1-4 mm and specific gravity of 1.1-1.4. Cols. 4 and 5. Thus, the Examiner indicated that claims 14, 15, 24 and 26-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to be claim 27 rewritten in independent form. For at least this reason, claim 1 and claims 2-13, 15-23 and 25-32 that depend from claim 1, are believed to be allowable. Claims 14 and 24 are also allowable.

Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are believed to have been overcome for at least the above reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

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ACUSHNET COMPANY

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Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicants' agent/attorney would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the agent/attorney at the number below.

At the time of filing, the above-identified Application included a total of 32 claims, 1 of which were independent claims. The present submission has cancelled 1 dependent claim(s) and added 2 new independent claims. As such, no fee is believed to be due for this submission. Please charge any required fees to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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